



October 23, 2012

OCTA Board of Directors Reject Toll Road Option on the I-405 Freeway

On October 22, 2012, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors voted 6-10 to reject Alternative 3, the proposed option to add toll lanes on the I-405 freeway between State Route 55 and Interstate 605. Instead, the Board of Directors voted to approve Alternative 1 as the locally preferred alternative for the I-405 Improvement Project.

After three hours of testimony and discussion, the Board of Directors rejected Alternative 3 which would have placed toll lanes on the I-405 freeway by adding one toll lane and eliminating the existing carpool lane to convert it to a toll lane. The defeat of this option is a victory for the I-405 Corridor Cities Coalition, which includes the cities of Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach. The Corridor Cities maintain that toll lanes are not what the public wants, nor what the voters approved under Measure M2 sales tax extension, and are thus illegal, unethical and a betrayal of public trust.

Alternative 1, the option Orange County voters approved under Measure M2, will add one mixed-flow lane in each direction between Euclid Street and the I-605 freeway. While Alternative 1 provides much needed additional general purpose capacity to the I-405 freeway, it is expected that this Alternative will not provide enough traffic relief over the projected life of the project. That is why the Corridor Cities still argue that Alternative 2, which would add *two* general purpose lanes in each direction between Euclid Street and the I-605 freeway, is the superior option as it will provide for a maximum increase of capacity and maximum throughput without resorting to toll lanes.

While the OCTA Board of Directors rejection of toll lanes as proposed in Alternative 3 is a step in the right direction, the Corridor Cities will continue to advocate for an upgrade of Alternative 1 to Alternative 2.

For More Information: please contact Public Services Director [Ernesto Munoz](#) or Transportations Manager [Raja Sethuraman](#).